



-- [www.rubythroat.org](http://www.rubythroat.org) --

### *WHAT is Operation RubyThroat?*

**Operation RubyThroat: The Hummingbird Project** is a cross-disciplinary international initiative in which students, teachers, and citizen scientists collaborate to study behavior and distribution of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*). Because these birds typically tolerate people and are drawn to flower gardens and hummingbird feeders we provide, they are ideal subjects for natural history observation and research. **Operation RubyThroat** is funded in part by the National Science Foundation and is affiliated with The GLOBE Program.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (RTHUs) breed in eastern North America and southern Canada; most spend winter months in Mexico and Central America as far south as Panama. Few details are known about their migration or behavior in the tropics. However, habitat destruction along and at both ends of the migration path undoubtedly poses danger for RTHUs.

In **Operation RubyThroat**, participants observe RTHUs in their home countries and share information with others across North and Central America. Data they collect about RTHUs are submitted to a central clearing house, analyzed, and disseminated through the **Operation RubyThroat** Web site and print publications. Participants learn not only about natural history of hummingbirds but reinforce skills in math, writing, geography, foreign language, and other disciplines AND gain deeper understanding of the need for environmental cooperation among people of the Americas.

### *WHO can participate in Operation RubyThroat?*

Although anyone can participate, the project is designed especially for K-12 teachers and students from public and private schools in the countries of Central and North America where RTHUs regularly occur: the United States, Canada, Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. Participation may include home-schooled students as well as folks from informal education venues (e.g., nature centers, camps, scout troops, etc.). Individual students and adults also can be involved, including parents, mentors, college students—ANYONE interested in hummingbirds.

### *HOW can I join Operation RubyThroat?*

You can become involved with **Operation RubyThroat** through its Web site ([www.rubythroat.org](http://www.rubythroat.org)); see "How To Participate" for details. Schools with a GLOBE-certified teacher also may enter Hummingbird Phenology Data on the GLOBE Web site ([www.globe.gov](http://www.globe.gov)). Teachers and other adults can become GLOBE-certified in hummingbird protocols by attending a four-hour workshop that can be scheduled at a local school, nature center, or other facility.

**Operation RubyThroat** is a trademarked project of **Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History** ([www.hiltonpond.org](http://www.hiltonpond.org)). The Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so donations in support of Operation RubyThroat are tax deductible. For more information or to schedule a workshop, please visit our Web sites, send an E-mail message to [info@rubythroat.org](mailto:info@rubythroat.org), or write to: Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History, 1432 DeVinney Road, York, South Carolina USA 29745.



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